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CHRISTMAS COUNT



1974 Christmas Bird Census

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AMES, IOWA

Another successful Iowa Christmas Bird Census is what I would call 1974. Twenty-eight stations reported 222,626 individuals of 117 species. Davenport was again the leader in number of species seen with 74. Closely behind were Clinton (67), Muscatine (64), Omaha (58), Princeton (57), Oakville (56), Cedar Rapids (54), Burlington (53), and Shenandoah (53).

We had several unusual sightings again this year, including an Iceland Gull (first state record) seen by the Davenport group, a Ferruginous Hawk reported by Wapsipinicon River Valley and American Bittern seen by the Clinton group. Several species showed marked improvements this year in number of individuals seen. Some of these were the Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, and Red-headed Woodpecker. On the other side of the coin some species showed a decline this year. These included the Short-eared Owl, among others. The Red-shouldered Hawk continued to remain rare with only two individuals found.

Found on all counts this year were the Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco, and Tree Sparrow. Those species represented by only one individual included the Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Pintail, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Virginia Rail, Iceland Gull, Barn Owl, and Northern Shrike.

Several new species were seen this year that were not seen last year. These included the American Bittern, White-winged Scoter, Gadwall, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Virginia Rail, Iceland Gull and others. The species not seen this year, but were on last year's count included the Pied-billed Grebe, Oldsquaw, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Gray Partridge, Bewick's Wren, Swainson's Thrush, and Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Anytime a state with Iowa's geographical location can pick up such diverse species as the Iceland Gull, Virginia Rail, and Ferruginous Hawk on a Christmas count, I would say that is pretty good. All in all it was a good count, one in which I am sure everyone enjoyed - even though the weather was nasty at times!

1. ALLEMAN (15 mile diameter circle centered on Alleman and including Big Creek Lake, Chichaqua Wildlife Refuge, Jester Park, Saylorville Dam north to Jester Park, and areas between these). Dec. 17: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 20-26; wind: none. Overcast, snow flurries, no open water, 1-2 inches snow cover. Observers (2) in 1 party: Dean Mosman (compiler) and Diane Mosman.

Comments: Tape recorder used to attract Screech Owl.

2. AMES (15 mile diameter circle centered on junction of I 35 and relocated Highway 30 to include Nevada Cemetery, Sopers Mill, State Forest Nursery, and ISU campus, same as last year). Dec. 15: 4:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 31-35; wind: 0-15 mph from NW. Moderate snow and rain, some snow cover, no open water. Observers (38) in 20 parties: Jerry Abma, Karl Bockhop, Bill and Dale Bowen, Marian Burchinal, Barnett Cook (compiler), Philip Cox, Larry Dau, Donald Farrar, Sven Gafvert, Joan and Robert Jefferson, Kevin Klute, Brian Ladd, Pat Lanaghan, Roger Landers, Gwen Lindahl, Lotus and Wilmer Miller, Bob Moorman, Don Norton, La Verne and Sheryl Payne, Jerry Ranch, Pete Roberts, Scott Ross, Jeff Ruprecht, Marr Simons, Janet Voight, Stanley Wallen, Jim Wilson, and Paul Zbarachi.

Other species seen during census period: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Northern Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird.

Comments: Northern Oriole at feeder, tape recorder used to attract owls.

3. BENTONSPORT (15 mile diameter circle centered near Bentonsport and including Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, county roads, railroad tracks, Des Moines river bottoms and bluffs.) Dec. 31: 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp.: 28-34; wind: 5-10 mph from S. Rain, sleet and snow in morning; heavy overcast in afternoon. No snow on ground; river open. Observers (2) in one party: Kathy Fisher (compiler), Mike Zahs.

Other species seen during census period: Bald Eagle, Bobwhite, Turkey, American Kestrel, Cedar Waxwing, .

Comments: Morning weather really kept the birds in hiding; they were very reluctant to leave cover.

4. BURLINGTON (A 15-mile diameter circle center on highway 99 at Flint Creek bridge and including Lock and Dam 18, Carthage and Crystal Lakes, Crapo Park). Dec. 28: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp.: 30-38; Wind: 5-10 mph from S. Partly cloudy to overcast, 0 to 1 inch snow cover, Mississippi 10 percent ice covered.

Observers (10) in 6 parties: Margaret Barker, Bruce Bosley, Catherine Cowles, Charles Fuller, Jane Fuller, Frederic and Edith Leopold, Harold Linder, Anna Mae Lowther, and Peter Lowther (compiler).

Other species seen during census period: White-crowned Sparrow.

Comments: One party used tape-recorded Screech Owl calls to draw out small passerines.

5. CEDAR RAPIDS (15 mile diameter centered on the Federal Building including Cedar Lake, Marion Springs, city parks, woodlands, orchards, nurseries, roadsides). Dec. 14: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp.: 32-34; wind: 0-15 mph from WNW. Overcast, snow cover 0 inches to 1 inch; 1 percent snow covered.

Observers (23) in 5 parties: Leroy Bata, Dr. Duane Carr, Mrs. Norman Erickson, Dr. and Mrs. Karl E. Goellner, Irene Haerther, Eldon Johnson, Beryl Layton, Mrs. Lucile Liljedahl, Mrs. Robert Mellgren, Brian Nelson, Weir Nelson, Mrs. Robert Oppedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Rosenberg, Dr. Floyd Sanford, Lillian Serbousek (compiler), Mrs. William Shaffer, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Rob Vane, Dr. Peter Wickham, Myra Willis.

Other species seen during census period: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Horned Lark, Robin.

Comments: Tape recordings used to attract some owls.

6. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle centered on Elk River Junction, Iowa, same as previous years). Dec. 28: 5:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp.: 32-37; Wind: 5-10 mph from S. Overcast to partly cloudy in p.m. ground covered by old snow in protected areas, river 75 percent ice covered. Observers (10) in 4 parties: Mark Henderson, Daryl John, Pat Lanaghan, Eric, Fred and Jonathan Leshner, Allan Mueller, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen, (compiler), and Ernie Sadler.

Details of unusual observations: American Bittern seen at close range near Thomson, Ill. all field marks standing and in flight, P.L., A.M. Glaucous Gull at Lock 13, with other gulls - E.L., F.L., J. L., A.M. and P.L.

7. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle, centered on formed toll house location on the I 74 Bridge, same as previous). Dec. 15: 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 35-43. Wind: 10-25 mph from S. O. C., snow and sleet occasionally, river open. Observers (49) in 37 parties: Mrs. Fred Adams, H. M. Anderson, Carl Bengstrom, Richard Benson, Mrs. Ed Carleton, Virginia Coster, Robert Dau, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Ann Dunsheath, Elton Fawks, Tom Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Mrs. F. C. Goodland, Tom Goodwin, Don Graves, Mrs. Alex Guthrie, Gary Harms, Mark Henderson, Mrs. Eugene Hollen, Mrs. Fred Hunt, Jr., Lloyd Larson, Dorothy Marquis, Mrs. Richard Martin, Francis McIver, Beth Mast, Ann Mizener, Allan Mueller, Dennis Murphy, Dawn Newquist, Marge Partridge, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiled), Mel Peterson, Mary Rose, Ernie Sadler, Bob Salmonson, Myrth Schutte, Mrs. L. T. Sloane, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Ralph Troll, Mrs. C. H. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: White-winged Scoter -- Lock 14, Ill. Scope, E. F., Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Goshawk-Fejervary Park, Dav. - good view, all field marks D.M., Glaucous Gull -- 2nd year, with other gulls, Alcoa plant, R. B., A. D., Mr. and Mrs. P. P., Yellow-rumped Warblers, Blackhawk State Park careful study - D.G., B.S.

8. DES MOINES (Waterworks Park, Easter L., Flint Access, Ashworth, Greenwood and Grandview Parks, Fisher's L., Walnut Woods, Impounding Res.) Dec. 21: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 21-26; wind: 4-6 mph from N, weather ?, 3-5" snow cover, rivers partly open, lakes frozen. Observers (13) in 5 parties: Ruth Binsfeld, Wm. Boller (compiler), Jack Borg, Woodward Brown, Ruth Buckles, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle DeGarmo, Oliver Graves, Gladys Haskell, Richard Mooney, Mary Elizabeth Peck, Mary Ellen Wartens, Lurene Wartens.

Details of unusual observations: Eight yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers in Waterworks Park. Found near a small stream which remains open due to flow of heated water from an industrial plant.

Other species seen during census period: Black Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin.

9. DUBUQUE (15 mile diameter circle centered on Center Grove Cemetery including Linwood, Industrial Island, John Deere, Durango, Dubuque's Grave, Massey, and Peosta). Dec. 21: 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp.: 22-26; wind: 7 mph from East. Overcast, 3 to 6 inches snow, river partly open. Observers (11) in 5 parties: Frieda and George Crossley (compiler), Lila Gruwell, Patricia and Ken Heidenreich, Harry Herold, William and Mary Herrmann, Joan Higley, Beatrice Schon, and Waneta Wiederaenders.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe seen in spring-fed stream. Geese were migrating. Evening Grosbeaks had been at feeder. Carolina Wrens had been in yard previously.

Other species seen during census period: Common Golden-eye, Ring-billed Gull, Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwing, and White-throated Sparrow.

10. IOWA CITY (15 mile diameter circle center near North Liberty). Dec. 21: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 15-24; wind: 0-10 mph from NW-W. A.M. mostly cloudy, occasional snow flurries, P.M. mostly clear. Snow cover 3-4 inches, water partly open. Observers (25) in 9 parties: R. Davies, J. R. and S. Dunkle, J. and Mrs. J. Fuller, M. Glasson, N. Halmi (compiler), R. Hulbary, B., F. and T. Kent, H. Osmundson, J. Petersen, D. Peterson, E. Prosnitz, M. Schmidt, T. Shires, T. Staudt, L. and M. Stone, A. and J. Taylor, C. Uphoff, L. Zaletel.

Other species seen during census period: American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Carolina Wren.

11. LAMONI (15 mile diameter circle centered at the junction of I 35 and U. S. 69 east of Lamoni, including county roads, farmland, and Nine Eagles Park). Dec. 28: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 28-35; 5-10 mph from S. Clear a.m., cloudy p.m., no snow cover, streams open. Observers (8) in 3 parties: Dr. David Carter, Bill, David, Jim and J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Lee Searles, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

Other species seen during census period: Mallard.

Comments: Hawks and Cardinals scarce this year, shrikes have been scarce for several years.

MARBLE ROCK (15 mile diameter circle around Marble Rock including woodland, public use areas, rivers, streams, and county roads). Dec. 30: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 15-33; wind: 0-5 mph from S. Clear skies, 2-3 inches snow cover. Observers (2) in 1 party: Pearl Knoop, Tom Staudt (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe and Winter Wren found at two separate spring-fed streams.

Other species seen during census period: Wood Duck.

Comments: Lack of Horned Larks, Goldfinchs, and hawks.

13. MARSHALLTOWN (15 mile diameter circle centered on E27 one mile east of Highway 14 and including Union Grove Lake. Same as previous years.) Dec. 14: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 33-35. Wind: 10 mph from E. to N.E., weather ?, light snow cover, river and small streams open, lake 95 percent frozen. Observers (22) in 10 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Glasgow, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hollingworth, Mr. and Mrs. John King, Miss Ruth Knochts, Carl Kurtz, Lester Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. James Plambeck, Mr. and Mrs. Les Ralston, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Roeder, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compilers), Mr. and Mrs. James Wignall and Miss Ruth Zorn.

Details of unusual observations: Immature White-crowned Sparrow observed at Ruth Zorn residence.

14. McKain's Access (15 mile diam. circle centered on McKain's Access (Skunk River) in SW Washington Co., and including Lake Darling State Park, river bottom, county roads, fields, railroad right-of-way). Dec. 28: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp.: 26-39. Wind: 15 mph from SW. Clear most of day, turning to overcast in late afternoon. Lake frozen over, but slushy. One observer: Kathy Fisher.

Other species seen during census period: Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark.

Comments: The very heart of this route, an old dirt road going from nowhere to nowhere, is being "improved" by the county. Everything, from enormous oak trees to brush to marshy ditches, has been bulldozed, Steep hillsides have been completely stripped. It's a sickening sight. None of the farmers who have land adjoining the road requested the "improvement" and a query to the Supervisors for clarification just drew chuckles. Woodpeckers are back in normal supply this year, but pheasants continue to be very rare and Bobwhites are missing entirely.

15. MUSCATINE (15 mile diameter circle centered on Lock and Dam 16, same as previous years). Dec. 14: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 27-41. Wind: 5-20 mph from E-SE. Overcast, ground bare except old drifts, river open. Observers (11) in 4 parties: Bill Bertrand, Don Graves, Mark Henderson, Ralph Money, Allan Mueller, Dennis Murphy, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Robert Salmonson, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

16. OAKVILLE (15 mile diameter circle centered 4 mile E. of New Boston, Illinois, same as previous years). Dec. 21: 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 22-29. Wind: 0-15 mph from W. Overcast, clearing late A.M. overcast noon, clearing late P.M., one inch snow on ground, river open with slush ice. Observers (7) in 4 parties: Bill Bertrand, Gerald Gill, Don Graves, Allan Mueller, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Bob Salmonson.

17. OMAHA, NEBRASKA (Center - Offutt Base Lake; territory includes Fontenelle Forest, Plattsmouth State Refuge, Lake Manawa State Park, portions of Platte and Missouri Rivers. Cultivated fields and pastures 60 percent, woodlands). Dec. 14: 5 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 35 percent, water 5 percent. Temp: 27-34. Wind: 6-17 mph from ENE. A. M. overcast, P.M. heavy snow starting by 1:15 approx 4" by 5:00. Rivers open, streams and lakes partially open. Observers (34) in 12 parties: Rose Anderson, Steve Bellinghiere, Tanya Bray, Dan Cassidy, James and Paula Commers, Evelyn Conrad, R. C. Cortelyou, James Delehant, Shirley Doole, William Fiske, William Frates, C. E., Mike and Tom Heaney, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Clyde and Emma Johnson, Teta Kain, Vance and Paul Kaminski, Glen Ledioyt, Robert LoPresti, Ed Loth, Marian Meier, Cathy Nelson, Marie Plata, Alva Sheard, James Sutton, Melba Wigg, (compiler) and Gertrude Wood.

Details of unusual observations: Merlin: This bird was sighted in the air and studied by all three through the scope. Every field mark was seen. Perched on a cornstalk, then took flight, at a distance of approximately 55'. R.G., S.D., J.C.

Ringed Turtle Dove: This bird was seen at the feeder of Harold Hall in Bellevue, Nebr. on count day. It has been seen feeding regularly here with Mourning Doves since mid-August.

Other species seen during census period: Canvasback near Glenwood, Iowa. Comments: A tape recorder was used in getting the Screech Owl.

18. OSKALOOSA (15 mile diameter circle centered on the Mahaska County courthouse including Keomah State Park). Dec. 15: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 31; wind: 0-3 from S. Cloudy all day, mixed snow and rain at times, no snow cover, open water in rivers only. Observers (2) in 1 party: Keith Layton (compiler), Robert Jessen.

Other species seen during census period: American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Hairy Woodpecker.

Comments: Feeding stations reported a general lack of common winter species this year.

19. OTTUMWA (County area in Wapello County). Dec. 29. Temp.: 40, cloudy, misty. Observers (8) in 1 party: Charles and Darleen Ayres (compiler), Jean and Virgil Corzette, Bill Heusinkveld, Pearle Walker, Gary and Madeline Wymore.

20. PINE HOLLOW (15 mile diameter circle to include Farley, Iowa and White Pine Hollow Preserve). Jan. 1: 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Temp.: 18-26. Wind: 10 mph from west. Clear, 3 inches of old snow on ground. Observers (2) in 1 parties: George Crossley (compiler), Howard F. Higley.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe and Killdeer in spring-fed ditch; Brown Thrasher seen and heard in brush pile in country gully.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

9

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Short-eared Owl																													
Saw-whet Owl																													
Belted Kingfisher																													
Common Flicker	9	30	5	16	21	11	16	30	5	51	9	4	9	6	47	35	63	22	3	2	8	3	5	6	13	9	8	26	
Pileated Woodpecker	7	27	15	23	37	55	25	15	35	12	5	13	8	41	58	46	6	5	2	1	17	11	19	6	5	10	10	54	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	9	11	3	23	37	55	25	12	10	18	33	8	27	19	17	30	4	3	9	12	11	6	20	1	24	7	36	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker																													
Hairy Woodpecker	1	15	1	7	6	6	21	12	14	8	5	7	16	11	12	6	6	6	1	4	4	8	3	8	11	12	5	200	
Downy Woodpecker	11	48	9	63	42	74	113	57	34	77	33	9	59	10	97	82	88	7	7	6	38	3	48	27	27	24	22	5	
Turned Lark	78	8		2	12	2	112	2	112	2	33	7	7	43	3	63	3	3	1	14	5	40	33	102	5	20	5	1168	
Blue Jay	96	102	144	78	131	258	340	40	86	63	12	64	27	201	158	49	12	20	8	43	25	15	91	14	23	16	48	1880	
Common Crow	12	162	50	337	130	330	214	143	24	62	285	17	139	155	259	22	25	18	9	13	940	16	22	5	43	209	85	152	
Black-capped Chickadee	34	106	30	95	247	93	189	153	45	264	96	9	13	196	155	259	22	25	18	9	13	940	16	22	5	43	209	85	
Tufted Titmouse	4	22	3	14	39	70	18	34	25	9	8	16	5	73	44	33	13	13	5	2	10	14	22	79	16	75	20	32	
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	28	12	61	41	46	62	46	48	60	22	11	30	8	47	74	59	5	5	4	21	1	49	8	36	23	25	896	
Red-breasted Nuthatch																													
Brown Creeper	1	6		8	4	16	28	5	1	8	2	1	2	1	5	7	6	6	3	1	3	1	5	3	2	1	4	116	
Winter Wren				2	2	2	2																						
Carolina Wren				5	1	2	2																						
Mockingbird																													
Robin																													
American Robin																													
Hermit Thrush																													
Eastern Bluebird																													
Golden-crowned Kinglet																													
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																													
Cedar Waxwing																													
Northern Shrike																													
Loggerhead Shrike																													
Spotted Thrush	95	1059	26	610	560	3385	2584	972	1676	405	96	63	690	43	4084	382	4239	52	211	1429	19	500	233	764	470	75	462	2574	
Yellow-rumped Warbler																													
Hairy Sparrow	162	2411	85	623	490	2135	2270	1890	710	718	369	105	415	110	2534	1657	1315	157	301	2014	3	800	1222	1160	220	60	972	24815	
Eastern Meadowlark																													
Western Meadowlark																													
Meadowlark sp.																													
Red-winged Blackbird	1	16		2	28	184	33	130	4	17	8	7	5	3	32	9	177	13	5	19	19	9	37	6	6	32	4	20	
Rusty Blackbird																													
Brewer's Blackbird																													
Common Grackle	1	2		65	358	26	5	1	6																				
Brown-headed Cowbird				9	300	7	2	6																					
Cardinal	24	96	116	134	98	160	268	56	83	167	44	6	114	16	214	290	82	33	30	7	84	20	107	28	33	31	14	131	
Evening Grosbeak																													
Purple Finch																													
Common Redpoll																													
Pine Siskin																													
American Goldfinch	5	108	18	36	48	153	192	7	137	20	196	74	9	17	178	117	245	13	25	42	105	9	28	62	33	32	6	41	
Rufous-sided Towhee																													
Vesper Sparrow																													
Dark-eyed Junco	8	548	393	245	352	353	766	490	333	402	56	43	160	56	698	611	629	70	50	36	350	52	269	143	134	61	65	480	
Tree Sparrow	253	333	58	150	124	528	577	487	567	290	143	185	86	61	568	322	790	64	100	73	466	56	335	723	75	117	55	346	
Field Sparrow																													
Harris Sparrow	1	8	1																										
White-crowned Sparrow																													
White-throated Sparrow																													
Fox Sparrow																													
Swamp Sparrow																													
Song Sparrow																													
Lapland Longspur																													
Snow Bunting																													
No. of Species	31	42	27	53	54	67	74	42	42	49	35	26	30	21	64	56	58	22	33	29	57	33	44	53	36	25	44	114	
No. of Observers	2	38	2	10	23	10	49	13	11	25	8	2	22	11	11	7	34	2	8	2	7	14	23	9	9	8	2	3	360
No. of Parties	1	20	1	6	5	4	37	5	5	9	3	1	10	1	4	4	12	1	1	1	3	6	6	6	5	6	1	164	

* many individuals seen, but exact number unknown.

Comments: County always has been taken Jan. 1.

21. PRINCETON (15 mile diameter circle, centered at Folletts, Iowa, same as previous years). Dec. 22: 5:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp.: 17-40. Wind: 5-20 mph from S. E. Overcast, clearing in A.M., ground covered with 2 inches snow, river open. Observers (7) in 3 parties: Daryl Jahn, Pat Lanaghan, Allan Mueller, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Bob Salmonson.

Details of unusual observations: Glaucous Gull at Camanche on ice with many other gulls, second year bird -- D. J. P.L., MLP, PCP, E.S.

Other species seen during census period: Marsh Hawk.

Comments: Eagles again concentrated at nuclear power plant despite open river.

22. RATHBUN LAKE (15 mile diameter circle centered 2 miles south of Glenview area, including all public use areas plus county roads leading from Seymour and Centerville). Dec. 15: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 33-36. Wind: from west. Very little snow cover, intermittent snow and freezing rain, complete cloud cover -- most of lake open water. Observers (14) in 6 parties: Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Blossom Hallberg, Bill and Marj. Heusinkveld, Catherine Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Gold, Tom Long and Paul Egeland (from the Corps of Engineers), Mrs. Joe Murphy, Bondene Rissler, and Charlotte Scott (compiler).

Other species seen during census period: Bobwhite, Pheasant, Horned Lark, Loggerhead and Shrike.

Comments: It was actually a poor birding day except for the vast numbers of ducks in the sky particularly late in the afternoon. We asked the men from the Corps of Engineers to help us with estimates.

23. RED ROCK LAKE (15 mile diameter circle centered on south end of Mile Long Bridge, Highway 14, including half of Red Rock Refuge, all of Red Rock Lake, Roberts Creek, Elk Rock State Park, dam and water below dam. Dec. 22: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 25-47; wind: 14 from SE to NW. Partly cloudy, 2 inches snow cover, lake 90 percent ice covered, Des Moines River open. Observers (23) in 6 parties: Charles and Darleen Ayres, Dr. Dale Birkenholz, Gladys Black (co-compiler), Val Jo Cranè, Victor Daughtorey, Herb Fotoe, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Felsing, Malcolm Felsing, Donnie Graves, Bob Jessen (co-compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Stu Kuyper, Keith Layton, Irene Layton, Dean Mosman, Phil Myers, Dr. Edward Mockford, Carl Priebe, Dennis Thompson.

Details of unusual observations: Mallard count below dam of 5000 is very high.

Comments: Some of the owls found with a tape recorder, Stu Kuyper counted his area on horseback.

24. SHENANDOAH (15 mile diameter circle centered on Farragut to include Riverton, and adjacent land and water). Dec. 28: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp.: 26-46; wind: 5-15 from SE. Partly cloudy to clear, no snow, fresh water open to partly open. Observers (9) in 5 parties: Donald Burrichter, Barbara Cunningham, Charles Gee, Mrs. Donald Jennings, Mrs. Eldon Spears, Mrs. Edward Vaughn, Mrs. Donald Walters (compiler).

Other species seen during census period: Snowy Owl, Mockingbird.

Comments: Due to above normal temperatures for December, open water and no snow cover has allowed for large numbers and unusual observations.

25. SIOUX CITY (15 mile diameter circle centered on Sioux City Auditorium, same as previous years). Dec. 14: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 29-34; wind 5 mph from NE. Cloudy, some fog, ground bare. Observers (9) in 6 parties: Carolyn Benne, Ray Durst, Larry Farmer, Warren Green, Robert Nickolson (compiler), Marge Payne, Morgan Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wells.

26. WAPSIPINICON RIVER VALLEY (15 miles diameter circle centered in Sec. 2, Maxfield Township, Bremer County). Dec. 28: 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp.: 27-39 wind: 0-35 mph from S. Partly cloudy to clear, snow cover 0-4 inches, water partly open. Observers (8) in 3 parties: Myrle Burk (compiler), Antoinette Camarata, Russell Hays, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Kirchgatter, John and Nick Osness, Florence Pierce.

27. WEBSTER CITY (15 mile diameter circle centered on Briggs Woods 2 miles SE of Webster City including Briggs Lake and Park, Boone River area, Kendall Young park, and open farmland). Dec. 21: 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp.: 16-24. Wind: 0-3 mph from NW. Thin overcast to fog to heavy overcast, light snow cover, lake frozen, river 80 percent frozen. Observers (2) in one party: Ron Muilenburg (compiler), Dennie Webbl.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe flushed along open water between dam and falls in Briggs Woods. Mallards in same area.

Other species seen during census period: Marsh Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl, and Common Grackle.

28. WHEATLAND (15 mile diameter circle, center Wheatland). Dec. 23: 5:50 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 36. Wind: 0-5 mph from W. Observers (8) in 3 parties: Esther Copp (compiler), Daryl Jahn, Peter C. Petersen, Jeanette Ruprecht, Brent and Greg Smith, Charles and June Wentworth.

Details of unusual observations: The Goshawk, an adult, was seen in flight coming toward the observers within 75 feet apparently pursuing a Belted Kingfisher. The Harris Sparrow was brought into view with a screech Owl tape and later answered a Harris Sparrow tape. It was seen for several minutes at a range of about 100'. (PP, GS).

Other species seen during census period: Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl and Red-winged Blackbird.

Owls At Diggs' Domain

MRS. FITZHUGH DIGGS
HAMBURG, IOWA

Although it is just mid-January and we are entertaining sub-zero weather and have a blanket of snow on the ground, the results of the January 10 blizzard, it is time for us to start looking for the Great Horned Owl nest. The Great Horns lay their eggs this time of year as it takes over a month to incubate and hatch them, then the owlets remain in the nest some six weeks before they are fledged in mid-April. One doesn't want to scare them from the nest as in only a few minutes the eggs would chill and no amount of incubation would hatch them. Consequently, binoculars are a must. Knowing Great Horned Owls don't make a nest of their own but use previously used hawk nests, crouches in trees, broken off dead trees and even hay lofts in barns if there are open doors or paneless windows for them to enter, one must search each tree, tree stump etc. looking for a protruding tail or a bunch of feathers gently moving in the wind, or possibly the male bringing food to the nesting female.

Having been born on the farm here where we were married 51 years ago and have lived here since, I know the history of these owls. Even though the windbreak grove around the building site was only 10 years old when I started to country school in 1904, there were tall Austrian pines at two building sites in the mile and a half we had to walk. We knew the Bobolink marsh, well, the Phoebe that nested under the two wooden bridges, the roadside nesting birds and the Great Horned

Owls that flew from the tall trees. Soon we saw them in the taller trees of our grove here at home. Since our marriage, Fitzhugh and I have kept bird records starting in the spring of 1924. These records always included the owls. Never have we been without Great Horned Owls and have been able to band some each year of the ten we have been banding.

The morning of May 19, 1964, Fitzhugh was feeding the cows in the pasture, when he spotted a young Great Horned Owl walking around in the lower grove to the north. He stepped over the fence and placed a manure fork over him. When I saw him carrying the bird in to the house, I thought, "What!! A Plymouth Rock chicken!!!!". This was our first owl to band.

Through the succeeding years we have had many delightful experiences. On March 3 we banded our owlet for 1967. The Garden Club of Lincoln, Nebraska had asked to come to our sanctuary on their field day. They were due April 30. The evening before, we discovered our owlet had flown to the pasture west of the house. Fitzhugh and I decided he'd be great for these 35 club members to see at close range so he ran him down and we put him in a well-lighted, high-ceilinged brooder room with a high perch in it. Some had never even seen a Brown-headed Cowbird, so naturally they were all delighted to see the Great Horned Owlet.

The same year held another delightful experience. The Leslie Athen youngsters of rural Farragut had discovered the clutch of Great Horned Owl eggs in the hay loft of their barn had hatched and sent word to us by their landlord, James Turnbull, a friend of ours. Up we went on Tuesday to see them and take pictures. Each succeeding Tuesday Fitzhugh took pictures until on the seventh week he could get close enough in the baled hay to only one (probably the youngest) to get a picture. So the growth of this clutch was well documented and school children and others delight in seeing how they grew those seven weeks. The pictures tell another story, that the female started incubating as soon as the first egg was laid, as there were 3 sizes of birds. They also reveal what was being fed the young. Rats and pigeons were most noted at the nest site. When they were large enough to band we put one of Mrs. Wallace De Long's bands on one (she was with us), one of ours on one, but the third was too small to hold a band. He didn't get his until eight days later.

March 22, 1969, two N. E. Missouri State College students at Kirksville, Robert Luker and Richard Crawford, come over. After having car trouble and getting lost, they arrived just before noon. We had found a pair of twin calves that a.m. so Fitzhugh had gone to town to get a nipples bucket to help feed them until the mother would claim them both and they would follow her. After dinner, among other things, we decided to show the fellows where our owls were nesting. At their insistence, Fitzhugh drove the hayrack under the tree, upon which they put up a 22' ladder. Richard, being the lightest, offered to go up to see. He announced it had hatched and held the owlet up for us to see its size. Three weeks later it was banded.

In 1970 they nested on the east side of the grove. April 15, 1970, Jack Hilsabeck, a biology teacher in the Rosendale, Mo. school, brought his 23 students over on a field trip. As they left we showed them this owlet which was banded April 6. After fondling his feathers, studying his eyes, feeling his whiskers and examining his feet they all thought he was the climax to an enjoyable outing. The spring of 1971 found the pair back to the 1969 tree site where they had one young. In 1972 they nested 150' from our den windows. How we enjoyed watching the parents feed their young and him exercising on the tree limbs, the parents not too far away. We were even on hand to see him when he flew off with his parents in tow.

One amusing incident made an indelible imprint on our minds. Fitzhugh hadn't been able to find the nest early in the season that year so, I thought I'd take a turn at examining the trees. I went along the east side of the grove and soon flushed a parent from the top of a 14' dead tree stump. We took a short ladder and the camera to see what surprise the dead tree stump held. Up Fitzhugh went and found the owlet. I went up next to see the layout, noting he was just sitting in this hole in the top of the stump. Fitzhugh decided to go back up and get pictures so we could leave the fellow to his parents' care. As I stood petrified and helpless, the tree trunk started to creak and slowly began going earthward, along with the ladder, man, bird, camera and all. He grabbed the bird by the wings and held him high in one hand and the camera in the other and took the fall as only a football player could with only his posterior slightly hurt and his pride damaged. Now, we had a bird with no home. Hesitating to place him on the ground for predators to devour, we took him to the house, placed him in the empty brooder room. A gallon bucket went to field with the farmer and tractor to gather a day's food supply of mice. After a few days, when we were sure he could fend for himself, we left him in the yard near the house. His parents fussed over him each night and one night they tolled him off. We knew then our charge could make it.

This grove, being as old as it is now and with the Dutch elm disease taking its toll, you may well know that the woodpeckers and Flickers have had a regular field day through the years. Their nesting cavities have also afforded places for the Eastern Bluebirds, Black-capped Chickadees, and Great Crested Flycatchers to nest. Screech Owls also make use of these cavities, for nesting as well as sitting and dozing by day. From our table in the kitchen we could see one, day after day, sitting in his preferred cavity. Our pictures show how well he was camouflaged, his gray feathers blending into the grays of the bark of the tree trunk. The red phase chose an equally inconspicuous spot where his red feathers fused into the light wood of the tree in the morning sunlight.

We have had several Saw-whet Owls. The small Saw-whet Owl, being almost completely nocturnal, is seldom seen unless one spies him sitting in a dense cedar tree. About the size of a Robin, he is very tame. Our great thrill is hearing, as he flies, his voice sounding very much like the filing of a saw, from which he gets his name.

To us, the Long-eared Owl is the most handsome of all owls. It is very gentle to handle, too. After banding one, photographing him, petting him and talking to him, I put him on the corner of a picnic table where he spread his wings to sun. Leaving him and checking an hour later, we found him still there enjoying himself, occasionally raising his head to check the surroundings.

Our dog, Goldie, often conversed with a Great Horned Owl, as she lay watching for rodents to invade our bird feeding area and the owl perched high in a tree overhead watching for a rat, mouse or rabbit that might provide a good meal. But, to Goldie, a Barred Owl was something else. Coming in at dusk one evening we found her barking up a tree and waiting for us to investigate. Fitzhugh, armed with a flashlight, so he could flash it on the window to signal me to come, found she had a strange bird (to her) treed. I took the binoculars that we could study it and identify it. Sure enough, a Barred Owl with his black eyes, ringed neck band and streaked breast feathers. His 8 hoots on an even pitch in two groups of 4 told her it wasn't the series of distinctive hoots of the Great Horned Owl she talked to. She accepted it, though, when we told her it was alright for it to stay. A guttural growl from Goldie followed by low hoots from the owl proved quite entertaining, as this conversation went on for at least twenty minutes at a time.

One day in the early 60's, before our banding days, we noted a Barn Owl nestled next to the trunk of a cedar tree facing east in the grove, west of the house. He could be easily seen from our kitchen windows so we glanced his way often. He spent the entire day there but on the morning was gone to be seen no more by us, our only sighting here.

In the spring of 1968 we had a pair of Burrowing Owls nest in our pasture west of the house amid the badger holes. Fitzhugh saw them often as he fed the cows in the same pasture. Later, one was seen by Mrs. Betty Walters, Mrs. Ruth Zollars Phipps and Mrs. Genevieve De Long, as he sat beside the hole he so faithfully protected for so long.

Our records show we have banded in the past 10 years: 21 Great Horned Owls; 45 Screech Owls; 4 Long-eared Owls; 8 Saw-whet Owls and 2 Barred Owls. Each bird has a personality. A friend of ours says she knows people who look just like these birds. Ha! Ha!

Yes, it's time to be searching for and spotting our Great Horned Owl's nesting site. This species we get only by catching as owlets just before or as they leave the nest. All other species of owls we catch in the mist nets.

I.O.U. Spring Convention

The Dubuque Audubon Society hopes that all the members of I O U have noted the dates of May 10 and 11 on their new calendar. You may recall (if you have long memories and are old enough) that your last convention in Dubuque was in 1940. We are remembering that fact and will try to compensate for those years by furnishing good weather, unusual habitats, and a record number of birds. We may be a bit off-the-beaten-track for some of our birders, but we may also be able to show you something different.

Since we are at the extreme eastern limit of Iowa we are not scheduling any program on Friday evening to allow all of you to arrive for the "kick-off". Registration and all of Saturday's programs will be held at the new YMCA-YWCA on Booth Street just off Dodge Street (US Hiway 20) one block east of Grandview Avenue. The banquet speaker will be Terry Ingram, Executive Director of the Eagle Valley Environmental Lists. He will show a film on Bald Eagles and slides of the eagle sanctuary near Cassville, Wisconsin, just upstream from Dubuque.

Sunday will be "something else again". We will journey to "Camp Little Cloud" Girl Scout Camp about 15 miles west for the early pre-birding breakfast, and line-up for the field trips; and we will return there for lunch, compilation of the bird list, and final business meeting. This is a delightful wooded setting and would be worth a full morning of birding in its own right. However, from here we will fan out to the river, marshes, fields woods, parks, ponds and wherever, for everything from grebes to sparrows, or blackbirds to wrens.

Please remember the admonition given previously in the December issue. All three of Dubuque's colleges will be having graduation ceremonies on "our" weekend, so be sure to get your reservations **now**. If you don't do so, plan to put your sleeping bag in the car, as cots are available in platform tents at the Girl Scout Camp if you reserve with us in advance.

Advance reservation forms, meal and tent reservations, maps of the city, motels, and Scout Camp area are to be found on the enclosed flyers. Come one, come all -- George Crossley



Dear Members of I.O.U., March, 1975

Spring migration is at hand again and I hope you are each in your own way enjoying every moment of birding you can squeeze into your schedules!

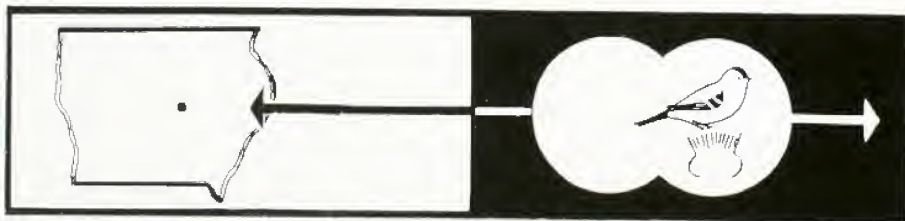
It has been an exceptionally great pleasure for me to serve as president of such a fine organization the past two years, and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity. Even though no new programs have been instituted during these years, we have developed a plan for setting the spring and fall meetings in a more regular pattern throughout the state, and have encouraged the membership to enlarge their recruiting activities for new members. In the last analysis, IOU will grow only in direct proportion to the efforts of the present members who interest people in our organization.

This year a nominating committee will function prior to the annual meeting at Dubuque. I would like to encourage you to send me your suggestions for persons you would like to see as officers and executive council members, and I will see that the nominating committee receives the suggestions. I will also welcome ideas from the membership which you would like the officers and council to consider at the meeting in May. Sometimes we are called a "do-nothing" group, so let's become a "do-something" organization. Get those ideas dusted off and send them to me.

We haven't been to the northeast area for many years for a meeting and many of us are looking forward to a great time there. The Dubuque birders are working hard to make this one of the best meetings ever, and I would like to encourage you to try your very best to get to that beautiful area.

The best of everything always to each of you!

Sincerely,
Darleen Ayres



East Central Counties

HERB DOROW
1200 S. 8th Street
NEWTON

CARL KURTZ
ST. ANTHONY

To fill in a gap in the birding areas series the editor has drawn together notes from several local residents in this area comprised of Marshall, Tama, Iowa, Jasper, Poweshiek and Benton Counties. Mr. Kurtz wrote the sections on Mar-

shall, Tama and part of Iowa County and Mr. Dorow the section on Jasper County. The editor added some sections, indicated by ed. at the end of the paragraph, and prepared the map.

MARSHALL COUNTY

Marshall County is 24 x 24 miles and contains 576 square miles. Originally it was more than 90 percent prairie with the major exception being the Iowa River Valley which cuts across its N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$. Since most of the prairie is now under intensive agriculture, much of the habitat formerly occupied by prairie species is gone. Bobolinks, both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Upland Sandpipers, Dickcissels, Savannah, Field, and Vesper Sparrows are fairly common where pasture or prairie remains, otherwise they are restricted to grassy roadsides. Four percent of Marshall County remains forested. Most of this is along the Iowa River.

Grammer Grove Wildlife Area

A 120 acre county park 3 miles S. W. of Liscomb contains both upland and lowland timber along the Iowa River. Pileated Woodpeckers have been sighted in the area several times. It is also a good area for viewing the Broad-winged Hawk migration during late September (about 21st). Bluebirds always have nested in an old oak pasture near the park entrance, and American Redstarts may nest in the upland timber along with Ovenbirds and Wood thrushes.

Marshall County Forest Reserve

This 80 acre tract of upland timber is 1 mile south of the Grammer Grove Wildlife Area and provides similar birding, though it lacks large open areas.

Timmons Grove Park

This county Park consists of 198 acres of bottomland timber on both sides of the Iowa River 1 mile S. W. of Albion. It possesses a number of woodland sloughs which often have bitterns, Great Blue Herons, and occasional egrets. Ospreys are also seen on occasion over the river during migration. Large numbers of woodland songbirds migrate nest and migrate through the area.

Riverside Cemetery

This large cemetery runs along the south side of the Iowa River on the North side of Marshalltown. Planted douglas firs, spruces, and pines along its west side often contain Crossbills and Pine Siskins if the weather dictates an invasion.

Sewage Plant

At the east side of Riverside City Park (which contains few birds) the city sewage disposal plant contains a number of lagoons often teaming with shorebirds during migration.

Three Bridges Park

East of Marshalltown the Iowa River Valley contains large tracts of virgin timber which provides excellent bird habitat. Three Bridges Park is one river access $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. W. of LeGrand.

French Grove

This 28 acre tract of upland forest 4 miles S. W. of Clemons is good habitat for common woodland songbirds year around.

Hendrickson Marsh

Most of the 600 plus acres of this artificially created marsh is in Story County, but it crosses into Marshall County $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Rhodes. Snow, White-fronted, and Canada Geese, Double-crested Cormorants, Whistling Swans, egrets, numerous shorebirds, and countless ducks find this area on their migration maps. The west end which lies in Story County is the best birding area. It was made a State Wildlife Refuge by the State Conservation Commission in memory of Dr. George O. Hendrickson of the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

TAMA COUNTY**Otter Creek Marsh**

Six miles southeast of Tama is state-owned Otter Creek Marsh. It covers three entire sections and parts of 8 others and lies just north of the Iowa River. The region provides an excellent stop-off point for migratory waterfowl.

Union Grove State Park

Three and one-half miles south of Gladbrook this state-owned area contains a large lake with a marsh at its north end, southwest corner, and many acres of upland forest on the west shore. It is a very productive birding area and usually included on the Central Iowa Ornithologists Christmas Count.

IOWA COUNTY

(see also I.B.L. Vol. 42, p. 47)

Amana Colonies

On the south side of the Iowa River $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of East Amana a dirt road leads through some upland forest belonging to the Amana Colonies. Typical forest species are abundant in the area. (Note it is not a rainy day road). The large pond just west of Amana on highway 220 often attracts migrant water birds and shore birds. It is locally called the lily pond and can be observed from parking areas just off the highway.

Iowa County Park

Located five miles north of Millersburg this county park of nearly 500 acres provides diverse habitat including woodland, edge, hedges and open areas. It is a good spot for migrant birds and has some water areas. ed.

Randolph Access

A state hunting area of nearly four hundred acres which lies five miles south of Belle Plaine. It contains chiefly timbered river bottom. ed.

JASPER COUNTY**Ashton Wildwood Park**

A county park about six miles straight west of Baxter, less than a mile east of Highway 65, is a wooded area ideal for land birds' habitat. There is heavy primitive camping but still many birds from early spring to late fall. From House Wrens scolding you when you get too close to nest to covey of young Bobwhite crossing your path and disappearing into a tangle of weeds and brush . . . not even giving you a chance to get a picture.

Mariposa Recreation Area

Another county park about eight miles northeast of Newton, very well kept with two small lakes. This park was set up years ago by a former Kellogg in-

dustrialist. He turned it over to the county or had it willed to the county to be used for primitive camping, fishing and picnicking. There are Buffalo, different species of deer, exotic animals and birds on display at the residence of the officer in charge. The various waterfowl can be seen on the lakes during the summer. Last spring I watched a pair of Belted Kingfishers swoop down upon the water and come up with small fish and take their time eating the prey as perched on a tree near edge. The overflow of the lake forms a very small but clear water brook that eventually goes into North Skunk River. The many conifer trees of various species provide ideal nesting away from probing eyes of park visitors.

Roman's Lake

About five miles southeast of Reasoner. The lake is really a part of South Skunk River. Being that there is no bank to hold the water it just covers part of the lowland making a lake in the center circled with a tangled mess of trees where the ground is spongy all summer. It is a stopping off area for migrating waterfowl. The nearby farmland is often too wet in early spring, giving the geese and ducks time to feed on the beans and corn that is left in the fields. This January the author spotted an immature Bald Eagle perched on a tree top near the lake.

Rock Creek State Park

About eight miles north of Kellogg, this a very nice birding area. The far north end is a marsh with Beaver and Muskrat. Some ducks stay all summer and I think some geese. Hunting is allowed on the north end, but the waterfowl soon become wise and fly to southend where hunting is not permitted. Great Blue Heron feed here during the summer with various Shore-birds. Every spring and fall I will notice one lone Osprey. In spring before the ice really has a chance to open up the Lesser Scaup start coming . . . so that it some times is a sight to behold as they bob up and down way out in the center on a windy day. Buffleheads usually stay a while before they go on. Not too many geese spend much time at the lake. Rock Creek Park is also a stopping off place for the swallows. Last September third about three thousand Barn, Tree and some Rough-winged Swallows covered the bathing beach area. Even the telephone and power lines wires were sagging as the birds perched on them. Three days later were gone. About ten days later I checked the area again to find perhaps less than a thousand at the beach and bath house. But I never do see them come in such large flocks in spring. Instead I'll see them in small flocks skimming over the water and maybe perching on small trees to rest.

Colfax Area

This 350 acre public hunting area lies just south of Interstate 80 at the junction of highway 117 north of Colfax. It borders the Skunk River and consists of marsh, timber and grassland. It is easy to check from the interstate when coming from the east for any sign of a concentration of migrants. ed.

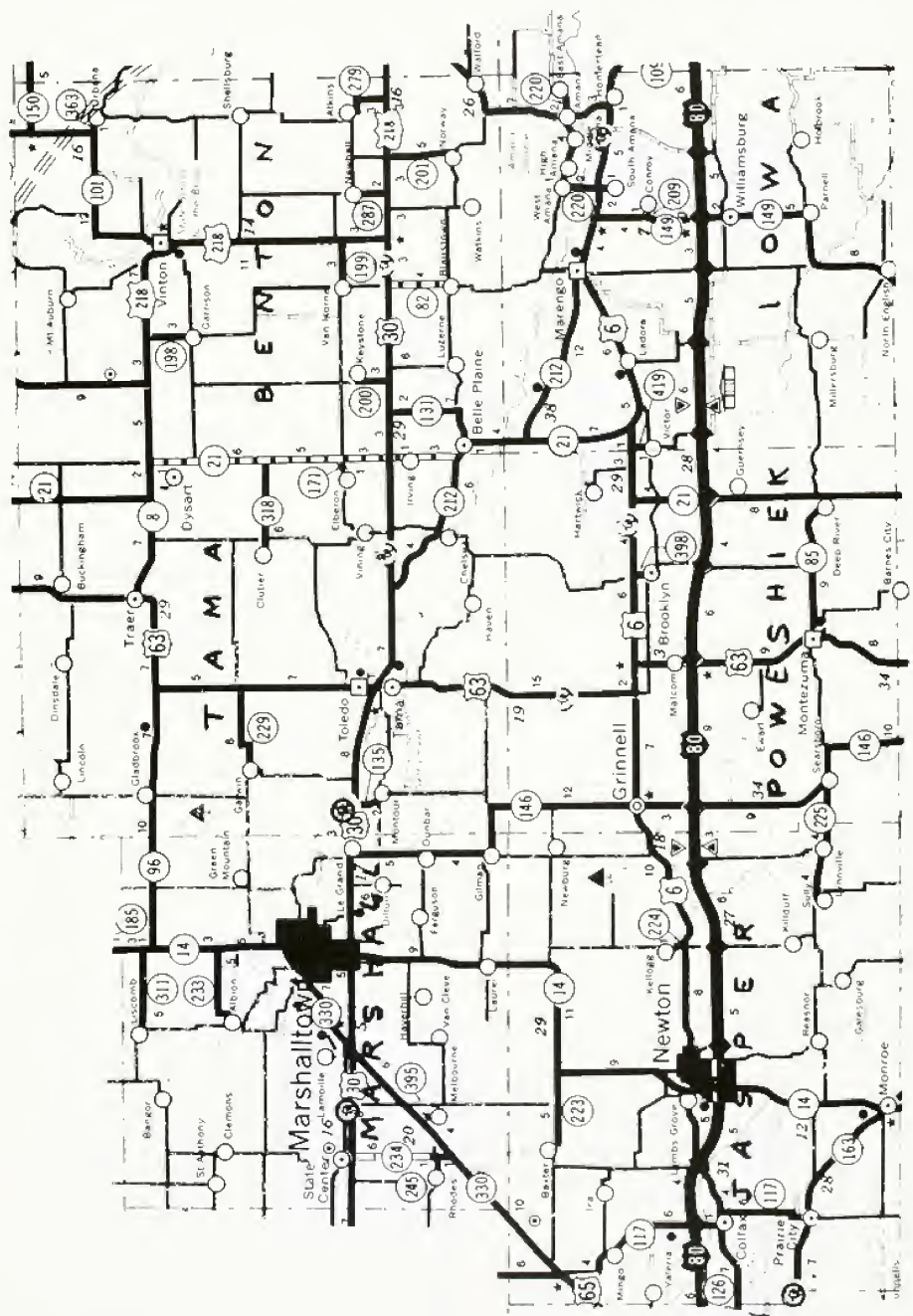
POWESHIEK COUNTY

Diamond Lake

This 170 acre county park located just west of Montezuma has a spring-fed water area which attracts a few migrating waterfowl. It is adjacent to Fox Forest Area, a wooded county park with hiking trails where migrating and breeding woodland birds can be found. ed.

Arbor Lake County Park

Located on the west edge of Grinnell this undeveloped county park of 37 acres should be checked for waterfowl in migration. It has brushy areas which are attractive to sparrows and finches. ed.



BENTON COUNTY

Hannen Park

Located 4 miles S. W. of Blairstown, this 180 acre county park consists of varied habitat attractive to a variety of birds. Camping is permitted and it contains some water area. ed.

Wild Cat Bluff

Another county park of over 100 acres it is situated about 2 miles south of Urbana along the Cedar River. The bluffs create a good birding situation for viewing migrants such as warblers from above rather than below. ed.

Mt. Auburn Bridge Area and Winegar Lake Area

These two 160 acre undeveloped county owned areas along the Cedar River are located about 4 miles N. E. of Mt. Auburn. They should be good accessible birding areas in the future. ed.

Dudgeon Lake

This public hunting area along the Cedar River consists of over one thousand acres, chiefly open timber. Located just north of Vinton it contains some ponds and brushy areas attractive to a wide variety of migrants. Many roads traverse the area. ed.

FIELD REPORTS

WINTER SEASON

Woodward Brown is again out of the country for the month of February, so the editor has compiled the winter season report. Christmas Census data is not repeated and should be read for a complete picture of the winter season. Many of us are in the field much more prior to and during the count period than in January and February.

The weather varied greatly throughout the state. Much of Iowa, especially the northwest, was hit by a severe blizzard on January 10 and 11 (see General Notes). In eastern Iowa it was a mild winter with only two snowfalls over four inches, both of which melted rapidly and in effect were only about five or six inches instead of the official ten. The Snowy Owl invasion was strong with about sixty sightings. Winter finches were down with very few Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins or Common Redpolls and no crossbills. Snow Buntings were found in good numbers in mid-January at many locations.

Pelicans, Cormorants -- A single White Pelican was present for two weeks in mid-November at the Princeton Wildlife Area, Scott Co. (DC). Several single migrant Double-crested Cormorants were seen in November: at Roman's Lake on Nov. 15 (HP), Lock 13 on Nov. 16 and at Mark Twain N. W. R. on Nov. 9 (PP). An immature seen on the Davenport Christmas Census lingered until Jan. 15 on the Mississippi off Bettendorf (PP).

Waterfowl -- A single Mute Swan has been present near Le Claire on the Mississippi (PP). Many Canada Geese lingered through mid-December at refuges (GB,PP). Four Canadas overwintered at LeClaire (PP); eight were on the Cedar River Jan. 12 and three at Cedar Lake on Jan. 26 (LS); 57 wintered along the Wapipinicon at Wheatland (EC), and a flock of 200 were seen in late January between Waterloo and Cedar Falls (Eleanor Corwin fide RH). Large flocks of Snow Geese returned to the Hamburg area by early February. Some had overwintered with Canadas (IG). The Mallards being fed in the Clinton - Davenport area were present in good numbers and were joined by a few Black Ducks (PP). Migrant Mallards were building up in early February at Hamburg (IG) and Burlington at the Lock 18 area (PP). A Black Duck was seen at the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir in mid-Dec. for the first record in years (WB) and three were at Cedar River and Cedar Lake on Jan. 1 and 5 (LS). An American Wigeon was found at Cedar Lake on Jan. 1 (LS). Canvasbacks and Redheads were seen at Montrose on Jan. 26 (RO) and a Redhead was seen at Cedar Lake on Jan. 5 (LS). A white-winged Scoter was seen Jan. 26 at Keokuk (RO) and several were present the first half of December at Lock 14 (EF).

Hawks -- A flock of 15 Turkey Vultures was seen at Lake Red Rock on Jan. 27 (GB). The only Goshawks reported were on the Christmas Censuses. January accipiter records included a Cooper's at Ankeny on the seventh (DM) and two Sharp-shinned were in Iowa City on the eighteenth (NH). Red-tailed Hawks Clarksville and Jan. 25 at the Waterloo Green Belt (RH), and one at Credit Island on Feb. 27 (PP). Reports on Rough-legged in central Iowa varied with few seen at Des Moines (WB) and more than usual at Ankeny (DM). Two Golden Eagles were reported, an adult seen from fifty feet near Princeton on Jan. 15 (GM) and on Feb. 11 at Hamburg (IG). The Bald Eagle count along the Mississippi for Feb. 8 stands at 416 with virtually all reports received (EF). Marsh Hawks were down at Hamburg (IG), but about normal at Ankeny (DM). A Merlin was at Decorah Jan. 5 (DK).

Quail, Pheasants, Turkeys -- Bobwhite were down at Shenandoah (BW) and especially so after the blizzard of Jan. 10 (MS), but considered abundant at Hamburg (IG). Pheasants were hard hit by the same storm in western Iowa (LW,MS), and were not seen at Iowa City in 1975 (NH), but were up at Hamburg (IG) and average to up at Essex (BW). Turkeys are reported to be over the state line near Hamburg (IG).

Gulls, Doves, Parrots -- An Iceland Gull was seen near Davenport, the first record for Iowa (see General Notes). Two Glaucous Gulls were also present in the Davenport area from mid-Dec. through January, a first year and a second year bird (PP). Mourning Doves were abundant at Shenandoah (BW) and Hamburg (IG). A Monk Parakeet, probably the bird seen last winter, was seen several times in December and January in northeast Davenport (fide PP).

Owls -- A Barn Owl was seen near Hamburg (fide IG). Snowy Owls were sighted at least sixty five times, an early sighting was at Woolstock on Nov. 29 (RS). Gladys Black is compiling the sightings and hopefully an article and map detailing the invasion will appear in the June issue. Please report any sightings to Gladys. Long-eared Owls are scarcer than formerly at Davenport (PP) and absent from the usual Pleasantville areas (GB), but four wintered north of Iowa City (NH). Short-eared Owls were seen in average numbers at Davenport (PP), seen near Wheatland on Dec. 25 by the Wentworths (EC) and three in a pine grove near Pleasantville (GB). A Saw-whet Owl was seen at Red Rock Refuge (GB) and another at the Sac-Fox Park Area on Jan. 25 and 26 (LS).

Woodpeckers, Horned Larks -- Red-headed Woodpeckers were generally considered back to normal numbers after last year's scarcity. Wintering sapsuckers were present at Shenandoah (BW) and Davenport (PP) with single sightings at Alburnett on Jan. 12 (LS), and Waterloo on Jan. 10 (fide RH). Horned Larks were considered few at Oskaloosa (RJ, KL), but abundant at Shenandoah (BW, MS), Marble Rock (PK) and Pleasantville (GB) and erratic at Des Moines (WB).

Crows, Nuthatches -- Crows were considered down. White-breasted Nuthatches are up at Oskaloosa (RJ, KL). Red-breasted Nuthatches were present at localities all across the state (HD, GB, PP, WB, LS) except absent at Hamburg (IG).

Wrens, Mockingbirds, Robins -- Carolina Wrens wintered at Hamburg (IG), McGregor (DK), Shanandoah (BW), Cedar Rapids (LS) and Pleasantville (GB). A Mockingbird was seen Dec. 28 at Westfield and found dead after the blizzard on Jan. 12 (LF). Wintering Robins were mentioned at Riverton (MS), Shenandoah (BW), Decorah (DK), Waterloo (RH) and Davenport (PP).

Waxwings, Shrikes -- Cedar Waxwings were numerous at Iowa City (NH), Newton (HD), Shenandoah (BW), and Davenport (PP), but none at Hamburg (IG). The only Northern Shrike reported was seen at Big Marsh in December (RH). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in the Oskaloosa area (RJ, KL), four seen in one day in the Pleasantville area by Rick McGrough (fide GB), and one banded Jan. 26 (DM).

Warblers, Meadowlarks, Blackbirds -- A late Palm Warbler was seen Nov. 17 (RH). Meadowlarks were up at Oskaloosa (RJ, KL) and abundant at Shenandoah (MS, BW) where the blizzard killed many (BW). A Rusty Blackbird came regularly to the Peasley's feeder in Des Moines (WB).

Finches -- Purple Finches and American Goldfinches were the only finch species seen in good numbers and even these were down at Hamburg (IG), and Iowa City (NH). Common Redpolls were seen at Big Marsh in December (RH) but not until Feb. 8 at Pleasantville (GB) and, Feb. 18 at Davenport (PP). A Towhee was seen on Jan. 23 at Waterloo (fide RH) and another wintered at Davenport (Mary Rose fide PP). Tree Sparrows were down at Shenandoah after the blizzard (BW). Harris' Sparrows were abundant at Shenandoah (BW) and up at Des Moines (WB).

Observers -- Darleen Ayres, Ottumwa; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Woodward Brown, Des Moines; Dave Coon, Albany, Ill.; Esther Copp, Wheatland; Herb Dorow, Newton; Larry Farmer, Westfield; Elton Fawks, East Moline, Ill.; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Robert Jesson, Oskaloosa; Ann Johnson, Indianola; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Decorah; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Gary Mensinger, Camanche; Dean Mosman, Ankeny; Roy Ollivier, Mt. Pleasant; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Marie Spears, Shenandoah; Robin Steiner, Woolstock; Loraine Wallace, Spirit Lake and Betty Walter, Essex. Send spring reports to Woodward Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312 by May 20.

GENERAL NOTES



First Iceland Gull for Iowa -- During the Davenport Christmas Bird Count on December 15, 1974, 9:30 A.M., an adult Iceland Gull was seen at Lock No. 14, Pleasant Valley, Iowa by Ernest Sadler and Mark Henderson. This description is copied from the documentation form: "Small, white gull. Shape seemed more streamlined, not as heavy looking or bulky as other gulls. Plumage gave an all white appearance from below with no markings or variations in color. Back appearance - some variation in shade, very light gray with a lighter appearance from tip of wings along the back of wings. No marking on bill, yellow and small, feet pink." The bird was in the company of hundreds of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls providing direct size comparison. It was seen at a distance of 30 yards with 7 x 35 power binoculars. The light was good, the weather high overcast and the observers are familiar with Glaucous Gulls. Prior to this observation a bird answering this description was seen on December 2, 1974, at Campbell's Island, East Moline, Illinois, away from the Mississippi channel, by Elton Fawks. This site is about two miles downstream from Lock No. 14. Fawks and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink observed the same bird Fawks had seen on December 2 on December 21 at Lock No. 14 from the Illinois shore. At least two immature Glaucous Gulls were present in the area of Lock No. 14 in late December and early January. Fawks saw the Iceland four times in January and three times in February. On January 28, 1975, the author saw an entirely white gull noticeably smaller than Ring-billed Gulls standing with it at Lock No. 14 at a range of 150 yards with a 20 x scope. The last Iceland observation was by Fawks on February 18. PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.

Blizzard of January 10-11, 1975 -- On January 10th and 11th, northwest Iowa was in the throes of an Iowa blizzard, the likes of which have not been felt in this part of the state for many years. Our barometer registered between 27.95 and 28.00, and wind gusts were unofficially clocked at an excess of eighty miles per hour. The wind chill factor was sixty degrees below zero, and by Sunday morning, the 12th, we had accumulated between eleven and fifteen inches of snow, most of which was piled in sizable drifts.

The damage to wildlife in our area was tremendous. Previous to the terrible storm we had been enjoying the following birds at the feeders on our farm . . . both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, House Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Flickers, a lone Nuthatch and several Blue Jays. In the days following the blizzard no birds at all came to the feeders. We assume that the intense cold, coupled with the long duration of the storm was instrumental in the loss of our resident birds. A week later, on the 17th, we noted a few chickadees were back at the suet, although we have no way of knowing whether these were the birds who normally came to the feeders, or others who had recently discovered food.

All winter we have fed ear corn to the pheasants which were wintering in a grassy thicket in our pasture. Where several hundred sheltered we have since seen only half a dozen since the storm. The Gray Partridge seem to have fared better than the pheasants, as we have observed a covey of six or eight at various times, both in open fields and ditches. We also see them feeding in our ensilage pit from time to time. Horned Larks are numerous and we see them in the silage as well as picking stones and gravel from the edges of the gravel roads.

We have been fortunate to spot three Snowy Owls, those silent visitors from the north. One was seen on a light pole, nine miles west of Spirit Lake, along Highway No. 9, and two just a mile south of that location, on our own farm.

During the month of December we were driving down a gravel road eight miles west of Spirit Lake and observed a lone Whistling Swan. We watched it circle and

land in a field of corn stalks, where we watched it feed for the better part of an hour. Earlier in the fall a flock of them had been observed both on Big and Little Spirit Lakes, so perhaps this bird had been part of that earlier flock.

We have lived on this farm since 1955, and this storm was by far the most devastating we have ever seen. Losses of domestic animals has amounted to a staggering financial sum, and something farmers will long remember with fear and trepidation. During the height of the storm our girls went out to dig their six pet ducks from a snowbank and took them to the safety of a machine shed. There on one of the rafters of the shed was a little Screech Owl, blinking slightly from the brilliance of the snow, but safe and seemingly unafraid. Not even two girls and six ducks could make him leave the safety of the shed. MRS. LYNN WALLACE, Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co.



Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River Bottoms -- The last week of March 1974, Edith and I spent camping at a K. O. A. campground located on a narrow strip of land between Highway 80 and the Platte River, some miles directly south from Wood River and halfway between Grand Island and Kearny, Nebraska, to see and photograph the Sandhill Cranes as they stopped to feed and rest before heading north. We were a little late for the peak. The timing of the cranes migration varies from year to year. But we still enjoyed watching their activity and getting pictures. We had one regret, and that was not having a tape recorder to record the musical rattle of their long beaks as they chattered to each other while flying overhead. We have a recorder now! We also noted that the cranes would follow the livestock in the cornfields and that the partly digested corn dropped by the cattle was picked up by the cranes. The Sandhill Crane is a beautiful bird in color, and I hope, some time, to get close up shots of them in photographs . . . in black and white and in color. HERB DOROW, 1200 South 8th Ave., East, Newton.

BOOK REVIEWS



The World Atlas of Birds -- Peter Scott, Consultant Editor -- Random House, New York -- 272 p., 500 color plates, 270 line drawings, 167 maps and diagrams -- 1974 -- \$29.95.

This volume bears a great similarity to *The Rand McNally Atlas of World Wildlife*, (*Iowa Bird Life* Vol. 44, p. 28). It is restricted to birds in scope but the general format follows the pattern of the realms of the world. Reliance is upon illustrations to a great extent to convey the material. Layouts are good and the artwork is of good quality with the exception of a rather weak "feel" for the subjects. Some familiar U. S. birds will require a second look to identify, for example, the Red-winged Blackbird on p. 62.

The introductory sections cover evolution of flight, feathers, perching, walking, swimming, feeding, senses, migration and display. The map on p. 20-21 has a series of black symbols not explained by the captions. The realms are introduced in one section with all species illustrated in the main body of the book being listed and color keyed to habitat. The body of the book then discusses each of the major habitats of each realm in general terms and details several species. It is into this section that errors have crept noticeably. Judging only habitats known to me over a dozen minor errors were found. They include reversal of common names of meadowlarks on the range map caption on p. 54; discrepancy between range map and text for the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, p. 58 and 59; calling the Everglade (Snail) Kite an endangered species and not an endangered race on a map caption while the text says "abundant in some parts of their range" on p. 69. The general conclusion is to be careful with regard to details in the body of the book. The final sections cover classification down to families with cross-references and symbols for quick assessment of general life pattern and some comments on names. The index is very complete.

The book is good for all libraries and birders who want to get a general, basic picture of a realm or habitat. It is always unfortunate that so many small errors creep into this type of general book. ed.

The Life of Birds -- Jean Dorst -- Columbia University Press, New York, New York -- 2 vol., 718 p., 33 black and white photographs, 110 diagrams -- 1974 -- \$35.00.

Jean Dorst's summary of avian biology from an ecological point of view is now available in English. First published in 1971, this work is considered one of the basic general overviews of the biology of birds. The first volume covers the bird as a flying animal showing how its skeleton, muscles, digestive process, metabolism and reproduction are adapted to the needs of flight. Also considered are the importance of colors, the senses, reproduction, habitats, population regulation and evolution. In the second volume the author studies the adjustments necessary for various environments; the role of birds in the living world; migratory patterns and the changes in bird populations caused by man including a plea for their conservation. As often happens with translations some noticeable errors have crept in captions of photographs and chapter numbers reversed being the most glaring. These volumes should certainly be in all large public and college libraries and deserve consideration by serious students. ed.

A Wilderness of Birds -- photographs by Sidney Bahrt, text by Hope S. Jex -- Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y. -- 160 p., 77 color photographs -- 1974 -- \$29.95.

This collection of bird photographs, which seems over-priced even with inflation, presents the species in non-competing backgrounds much as one would observe them through a telescope. Most were taken using an 800 mm mirror lens which does make the bird the central theme. Quality varies greatly and one should not expect the book to serve as a tool to teach species identification. The only error noted was the Rose-breasted Grosbeak on p. 25 which seems to be an immature male from the photograph, not a female as captioned. Several other subjects are not positively identifiable from the photographs. The text provides a little background information on the species covered and stays very general. Certainly you should try to examine this volume before purchase. One would suspect many photographers have comparable work in their files. ed.

Owls -- Tony Angell -- University of Washington Press, Seattle -- 80 p., 76 drawings -- 1974 -- \$12.95.

Owls seem to be the most popular group of birds currently serving as literary subjects. In this little book the drawings are the major feature. It deals with the American owls and each is represented by several drawings which show various postures typical of the particular species. The text is brief and consists of some general life history information. The book is rounded out with a bibliography of eight titles relating to owls. ed.

Territory -- edited by Allen W. Stokes -- Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross, Inc., Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania -- 416 p., many charts, tables, etc. -- 1974 -- \$20.00.

This book is one of a series composed of benchmark papers previously found in various journals. Nineteen of the papers deal with birds, some appearing in English for the first time. Space does not allow a complete listing of the papers included but the selection is well made and deals with the theory of territory, its biological significance, its limitation of density, colonial territories, intraspecific variation in social systems, food and energy relationships, the evaluation of territory experimental approaches to territory. ed.

A Bird is Born -- E. Bosiger and J. M. Guilcher -- Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, New York -- 95 p., 100 black and white photographs -- 1974 printing -- \$3.95.

Another children's book in the Sterling Nature Series featuring a fine series of photographs of developing chick embryos. Common British birds are followed through the early part of their lives. Again as with others in this series the photographs are very good. ed.

Audubon's Birds of America Coloring Book -- Paul E. Kennedy -- Dover Publications Inc., New York, New York -- 46 p., 46 black and white illustrations -- 1974 -- \$1.35, paperbound.

Dover provides a good means for interesting children in birds -- coloring sketches of Audubon's paintings. The 8 1/4 x 11 size allows ample room for the budding artist. The covers are composed of small color reproductions of the original paintings to give a handy suggestion for the proper colors. This reasonably priced book would make a nice gift for any young person interested in nature and art. ed.

Man and Birds -- R. K. Murton -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 364 p., 77 black and white plates, 40 text figures, 19 tables -- 1974 -- \$8.95.

This book deals with the truly economic aspects of man's inter-relationships with birds. It details the ways men and birds affect each other in food production, farming, forestry, horticulture, fishery, urban conditions and hygiene, sport, and industry as well as the conservation issues involved. The need to preserve unique habitats and protect bird life is balanced against the demands of crop protection and control of problem birds. The book is written specifically about England but the material is applicable to the U. S. Since the place of bird life in the world of the future will become increasingly dependent upon man's whims this is an important book for the conservationist. ed.

Ocean Wanderers -- R. M. Lockley -- Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa. -- 168 p., 9 color and 28 black and white photographs, 22 distributional maps -- 1974 -- \$15.00.

If you are looking for a well illustrated, authoritative introduction to sea birds this could be just the book for you. Lockley is one of the most highly considered sea bird specialists. He has brought the story of the life history of sea birds to the reader in a nice package. He covers origin, evolution, adaptations to ocean-going, behavior, feeding grounds, navigation, man and sea birds and the various sea bird groups. It is a truly fine combination of beauty and information. ed.

Gardening with Wildlife -- Russell Bourne, Ed. -- National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D. C. -- 191 p., many line drawings and color plates -- 1974 -- \$12.95.

Since most of the land in this country is owned by private individuals the National Wildlife Federation reasons that more wildlife habitat can be created by people developing their own property than by any other means. In a beautifully produced and laid out book eight authors show the reader how to turn his backyard into a wildlife refuge. It includes planting maps, feeding charts, a month by month gardener's calendar, landscaping to provide natural homes and food, designing brush shelters, building pools and waterfalls for pond life and constructing bird feeders, baths and houses. It accomplishes its purpose while also providing a selection of fine nature photographs which illustrate the suggestions made in the text. ed.

Autumn Hawk Flights -- The Migrations in Eastern North America -- Donald S. Heintzelman -- Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N. J. -- 398 p., 88 black and white photographs, 48 maps, 60 tables and 40 charts, drawings and graphs -- 1975 -- \$30.00.

We are all familiar with the often spectacular concentrations of migrating hawks which are often brought together in fall migration by geographic and weather conditions at such points as Duluth. Now there is a detailed book dealing with this phenomenon. The subject is covered from several angles. First the field study methods are described including a section on hawk identification. The second part of the book surveys over one hundred sites of importance in Eastern Canada, the U. S. and Central America. The dividing line seems to be the Mississippi River with one site on the west bank in S. E. Minnesota included based primarily on one movement. No Iowa or Illinois areas are mentioned although reports of hawk movements are in the published literature. The final section relates the migration to natural phenomena. It explains the role of winds and temperature to the migrating hawks, the daily flight rhythms and noon lulls, flight speed and migration routes. Many tables give specific counts for some of the major observation points. A lengthy bibliography is included. The price seems high for a book which has no color plates. It is a fairly good coverage of a very specific subject. ed.

Marked Cowbirds

Over 7,100 Brown-headed Cowbirds were banded and color-marked in west-central Kansas during 1974 as an aid in studying their movements and hopefully to determine their place of origin. Birds were marked with red, yellow, or green plastic leg streamers. Fall and winter observations revealed 27 individuals from ten locations in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. However, data from spring and summer movements are needed. Observers should report location and date of sighting, sex of bird, and color of leg streamer to Richard A. Hill, Department of Biology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601.

1974 completes the final year of banding for this study. The number of observations has been very encouraging. With your assistance I am very optimistic about reports of spring and summer movements of color-marked cowbirds.

Sincerely yours,
Richard A. Hill

NEW FIELD CHECKLIST NOW AVAILABLE. The IOU Field Checklist has been revised to reflect the nomenclatural changes announced in the April 1973 Supplement to the AOU Checklist, 5th Ed. Most of the newly named species are readily recognizable, but some might require explanation, e. g., Pigeon Hawk is now Merlin, Sparrow Hawk is changed to American Kestrel, Traill's Flycatcher is Willow Flycatcher, and Myrtle Warbler is Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The Supplement also changed the status of some full species to sub-species, but only two changes of this kind affect the Iowa list; the treatment of the Blue Goose as a color phase of the Snow Goose, and the combination of the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers into one species, Common Flicker.

The Checklist Committee felt this to be an opportune time to prepare a more realistic checklist for the members' use. Several species on the 1968 list would have been dropped under the five records in 20 years rule, and it was decided also to eliminate some others which had been "accidental" or "casual", leaving only those described in the checklist as species "which one could reasonably expect to see in Iowa in proper season and habitat."

The new checklist contains 271 species which includes the additions of Cattle Egret, Rock Dove, and Chuck-will's-widow.

Checklists are obtainable from the Treasurer at these prices: 10 cents each, or 2 for 15 cents on mail orders accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. For quantity orders add these amounts for postage; 6 copies, 10 cents; 24 copies, 24 cents, 50 copies, 40 cents, and 100 copies, 72 cents. Robert Vane, Chairman, Woodward H. Brown, Frederick W. Kent, Checklist Committee.

Cover

Glinda Crawford is a wildlife art enthusiast from Ames. Her husband is Rich Crawford, Vice-President of the IOU. The Screech Owl on our 1975 covers is a good example of her work.